



MONTHLY REPORT AUGUST 2018

Commercial and Recreational Fisheries

- Recreational fishing continues to be very busy with lots of education taking place. More than 10 bushels of quahogs, 44 bushels of oysters, and 3/4 of a bushel each of soft shell clams and razor clams were harvested from the Indian Neck recreational area this month.
- One commercial fisherman has been consistently fishing for steamers all month, which is unusual – and good news – for Wellfleet.
- Boats have been getting strong, consistent catches of quahogs, blood clams and oysters from the harbor.
- Wild pickers have been steadily working Herring River, Egg Island, Indian Neck, Blackfish Creek and north and west Lieutenant Island areas for oysters and quahogs.
- Through August, we have sold 827 recreational shellfishing permits = \$41,225, bringing our total shellfishing permit sales up to \$77,510 for 2018 to date.
- Kellers Corner opened to wild quahog harvesting for commercial fishermen on August 15, while Herring River closed to all shellfish harvesting on Aug. 31.
- We are waiting for state statistics about commercial catches for August to compare with ours.

Enforcement

- We continue to do vibrio inspections of wild harvesters and grant holders, focusing on exposure time, ice, tags, shading and logbook entries. Compliance is excellent, and we are confident in the high quality of Wellfleet oysters reaching the market.
- We have increased our monitoring of harvester-dealer transfers at the pier, checking ice and tags. We were called to assist an EPO with one of these, and he also checked all permits, so we are now educating our growers and harvesters about this.
- We have increased our spot seed checks on wild fishermen, resulting in a few verbal and one written warning.
- We confiscated catch from a commercial harvester for a fourth seed infraction in five months and automatically suspended his commercial permit through the end of 2018. Catch was put in Chipman's Cove.
- Dragging in the harbor is increasing, and conflicts are rising. We are increasing our boat landing inspections of catch at pier and on-the-water boat patrols. We are fostering positive two-way communications with captains to listen to their perspectives, address issues and help resolve conflicts.
- We continued grant inspections focusing on Egg Island and Indian Neck/Field Point.
- In the recreational fishery, eight verbal warnings about seed were given along with plenty of education, and five catches were confiscated (thrown back) because of too much seed.
- August brought an increase of tourists illegally harvesting shellfish all around Wellfleet with numerous incidents logged. We make them put the shellfish back and spend time educating them, directing them to get a recreational permit or buy shellfish from seafood markets.
- We began training our part-time, seasonal staffer to do commercial patrol.
- Constable Civetta walked out on the Eastham-Wellfleet flats looking for the town line marker in Hatch's Creek. Did not find it but will continue to look.

State and Town Relations

- The state closed fishing in Wellfleet Harbor from August 5 until August 8, due to heavy rains that brought more than four inches in a 24-hour period. Our emergency plan was implemented (ball up, signage, website and Facebook posts, emails and text messages sent).
- One commercial fisherman and five recreational permit holders were stopped from harvesting and made to put catch back.
- We began to explore the possibility of the town acquiring 3 Kendrick Ave. and met with the Harbormaster and toured the site with the realtor.

Propagation

- We planted 100,000 baby oysters and 97,000 baby quahogs on our propagation bed with the help of senior commercial and recreational permit holder volunteers.
- Propagation activities happen at least four times a week as our oysters continue to grow. Assistant Constable John Mankevetch and crew have been busy making bags and separating oysters into smaller density bags, as well as raking the clam nets of seaweed.
- We got the hopper and outboard motors off the barge in preparation for new barge project.
- The Taunton River quahogs were tested by the state on August 13, and came back with a clean bill of health, meaning that they can be harvested as of Sept. 16.
- We met with the owner of upland property in front of where we would like to situate our new propagation bed. A contract will be developed. We reached out to the new owner's liaison for the property where our current propagation bed is located and we are waiting to hear back.

Education & Outreach

- Asst. Constable Mankevetch spoke about the shellfishing industry and oysters and clams at a public event at St. James the Fisherman on Aug. 2.
- Constable Civetta did an interview with Cape Cod Magazine for an October story, and was quoted in The Provincetown Banner in stories on the [new grant](#) that was given out and a type of [oyster that does not spawn](#), as well as in an article about fisherman Mike Kubiak [losing his permit](#). Civetta was also quoted in an article about changing fisheries and the difficulty of finding year-round housing in [The National](#), a United Arab Emirates paper serving the English-speaking community.
- Asst. Constable Mankevetch was interviewed extensively for two articles in The Provincetown Banner, one on [dredging](#) and another on the [town's propagation activities](#).
- The Provincetown Banner also wrote an editorial on [dredging](#), quoting Mankevetch.
- One commercial Shellfish Crier was distributed.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Civetta
Shellfish Constable